

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Figure 11 has been amended to correct a formal matter. Claims 1-10 and 21 are allowed and claim 20 includes allowable subject matter. Claims 1-10 and 18-21 are pending in the application.

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Johansen (US 5,963,415). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Johansen discloses an electrical discharge protection device 30 that includes a housing 31 and flex circuit 16 that is secured to the housing 31. A set of separate fingers 53 of a comb 50 extend through slots 48 in the housing and contact test pads 20 formed on the flex circuit 16. A shunting bar 60 is secured to a top surface of the housing in alignment with the slots 48 such that a ground contact portion 56 of each of the fingers 53 contacts the shunting bar 60 when the comb 50 is positioned within housing 31. When a device is assembled and in use, each of the fingers 53 engage one of the test pads 20 and remain in contact with the test pads 20 at all times during use of the device 30. The ground contact portion 56 of the fingers 53 maintains contact with shunting bar 60 until moved into a deshunted position using, for example, a disrupter 72 that is passed through slots 48.

Johansen fails to disclose or provide any teaching whatsoever of disrupting contact between the fingers 53 and the test pads 20 of the flex circuit 16. Movement of the ground contact portion 56 of the fingers 53 relative to the flex circuit 16 and test pads 20 is irrelevant to the electrical and physical contact of the fingers 53 to the flex circuit 16. As shown in Figure 4 of Johansen, fingers 53 are a continuous piece that include both the ground contact portion 56 as well as the finger contact portion 52 that is in constant contact with the flex circuit 16 via the test pads 20. Therefore, Johansen fails to disclose "lifting the means for electrically communicating relative to the circuit during operation of a device so as to electrically separate the means for electrically communicating and the circuit, and returning the means for electrically communicating from the lifted position relative to the circuit to a position in which the means for electrically communicating in the circuit are electrically connected" as required by claim 18.

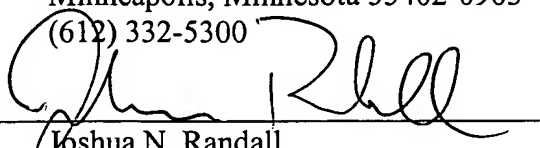
Therefore, Applicants submit that Johansen fails to disclose every limitation of claim 18 and the claims that depend from it. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If a phone conversation would be helpful in resolving any issues related this matter, please contact Applicants' attorney below at 612.371.5387.

Respectfully submitted,

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